

History of Yahed's Family

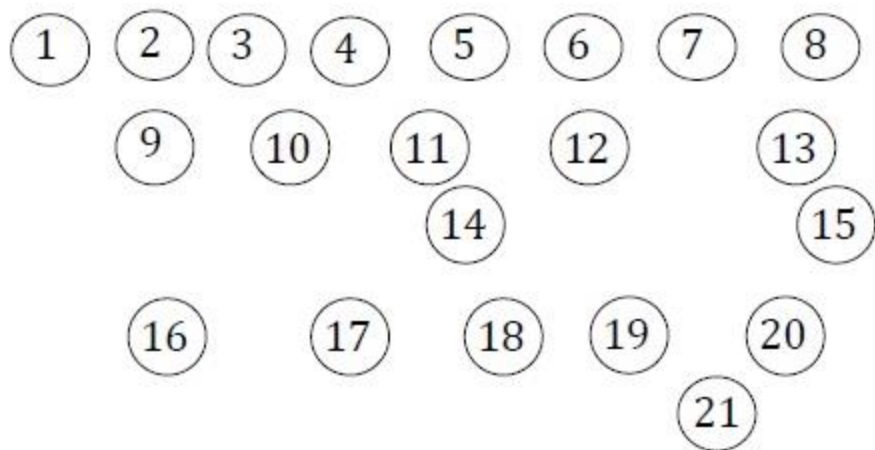
How did this project start?

This is the story of a Jewish family that lived in Moldavia in the 19th and 20th centuries. Its descendants now live in Israel, the United States, Canada, France, Germany and other countries. We believe that they, as well as some others, may be interested to read about them.

It all started with this photograph:



To make it easier to refer to the people in this photo, let us show them as circles with numbers from 1 to 21:



As we later figured out, the photo was taken in Kishinev in 1940 and it shows four generations of this family. The only member of the oldest generation was born probably in the early 1860s. Her husband had died before the photo was taken. Since retirement benefits did not exist, or almost did not exist, then, she belonged to the poorest sector of the population. But she was the mother of nine children, and their descendants now include doctors, lawyers, professors, etc. Two years later, she was dead. We do not know how she died, but most likely she was a victim of the Holocaust. We (her great-granddaughter's husband and her great-grandson) have written this story for her descendants.

One of us, Srul Makagon (SM), who will be introduced later, got interested in this photo. It was probably taken by a professional photographer, as the people in the picture are dressed up and their positions are carefully arranged. SM wrote the first version of this story. To identify the people in the picture, he interviewed several members of the family. He also recruited Eugene Veklerov (EV), who will be introduced later, to work on the project. EV added some material to the first version, made a few editorial changes and translated it into English. In particular, SM and EV interviewed Isaak Trostyanetsky, the only person in the picture who is alive as of April of 2022. We also got a lot

of useful information from Malvina Makagon (SM's wife), Ida Bozinovsky and others.

Finally, we identified the people in the picture and tried to get basic facts of their lives and the lives of their descendants. However, before we dive into the details, let us provide some background information first.

Introduction

Even though the men in this picture sport neckties and women wear lovely dresses, the family was not rich. It mostly consisted of craftsmen – tailors, shoemakers, etc. Like many other Jewish blue-collar workers, they tended to support socialist ideas while remaining observant Jews.

Prior to WWI, Moldavia was part of the Russian Empire. After WWI, it became part of Romania. In the summer of 1940, per the Molotov–Ribbentrop pact, Romania had to cede Moldavia to the USSR, which must have been welcomed by the family for two reasons. First, as blue-collar workers, they believed Soviet propaganda that the USSR was a workers' paradise. Second, as Jews, they suffered from Romanian antisemitism. There was no antisemitism in the Soviet Union, at least on paper, and they believed that.

The period between 1940 and 1941 was a short break for them, which ended when Germany invaded the USSR on June 22, 1941. During that break, they could meet their relatives in Russia; their friends and relatives living in Romania moved to Kishinev, as they wanted to live in the USSR. It was probably one of these joyous moments when they decided to take that picture. Back then, making pictures was expensive, and unlike now, it was done only on special occasions. The people in the picture had no way of knowing that they would endure the hardest period of their lives in the coming four years, and some of them would be dead by the end of that period.

The history of this family reflects major events of the 20th century: the Kishinev pogrom of 1903, the Bolshevik revolution of 1917, Stalin's

purges, WWII and the Holocaust, a gradual relaxation of the immigration rules that started in the 1970s, and a full collapse of the Soviet Union. As the dissolution of the Soviet Union was underway, Moldavia declared independence and took the name Moldova. The 1970 census showed 98,000 Jews living in Moldavia. By 2014, that number had dropped to 2,000.

Jewish names and their versions

There is some confusion about the spelling of Jewish names. Several factors cause this confusion:

- **Transliteration.** The people in our story spoke the Yiddish language. Written Yiddish uses a modified Hebrew alphabet. Whenever you have to spell a name in a different alphabet, you usually try to choose the closest corresponding letters, and this process is called transliteration. However, transliteration may be tricky, because there are multiple ways to spell out a name. For example, Пётр is a Russian name written in the Cyrillic alphabet. You can transliterate it into the Latin alphabet as either Piotr, or Pyotr. Alternatively, you may choose the common English name Peter. It is up to you and it causes confusion.
- **Evolution.** In thousands of years, the pronunciations of Jewish names have gradually evolved. For example, Sara (or Sarah) is a biblical name that is still widely used by both Jews and non-Jews in Western countries. Among speakers of Yiddish, pronunciation of the first vowel gradually evolved into something sounding more like ‘u’. The clerks, who had to write it down in documents using Latin or Cyrillic letters, spelled it as Sura. The same applies to the evolution of Avram to Avrum or even Avrom.
- **Lack of standards.** Centuries ago, there were no spelling standards in general, including the spelling of names. That is why the same name might have several variants, like Erik, Eric, Erick, etc. In English-speaking countries, these multiple variants still exist. In

Russia, the name spelling is standardized, at least it was so in the 20th century. For example, if you wanted to register your newborn child as Nekolay, the clerk would probably correct it to Nikolay. Basically, you could choose your name in Russia only from a predefined list, whereas in English-speaking countries, you are the owner of your name; hence, you can define it any way you want. When it comes to foreign names, all rules were off. That is especially true if the foreign language uses a totally different alphabet and different sounds, such as Chinese or Japanese.

- Also, keep in mind that both the Yiddish and Russian languages widely use diminutive names that often express affection for a person. For example, David-Davy-Dovid-Dov-Dovidl-Dodik are versions of the same name conveying various emotions.

Yahed and her children

Let us come back to our photograph. The only member of the oldest generation, the matriarch – Yahed Bozinovskaya (No. 11) – is appropriately in the middle. Yahed is a version of the Hebrew name Yehudit, meaning “woman from Judea”. Its English version is Judith or Judy. The child she holds on her lap is her great granddaughter Mila Veksler, to whom we will come back later. She would have been a first cousin to Mila (Malvina) Makagon (SM’s wife) and to EV.

But let us go in order. Bozinovskaya is Yahed’s married name. We do not know her maiden name, but know that her husband’s name was Itzhak (English version – Isaac). By the time the photo was taken, Itzhak had died. We also know the names of both Yahed’s and Itzhak’s fathers’ names. They were Itsek (a version of Itzhak) and Leyzor (or Layzer, or Eliezer), respectively. Itzhak and Yahed had 9 children – 6 boys and 3 girls – shown in this diagram in birth order – Yakov is the oldest, David is the youngest:

David are. The son **Shimon** is not in the photo, because he lived in Leningrad then. Now let us talk about the people in this photo using the numbers in the circles. For the sake of convenience, if several close relatives are in the photo, we will describe them together.

1, 9, 16, 17 – Aron Bozinovsky (Yahed's son), his wife Tsira and their children Toyva and Yasha (Yakov). We know that Aron was born in 1891, because we have his birth record. Therefore, Aron was 49 years old in this photo. Yasha is also in the next group photo taken in 1978.

2, 10 – Munish Veksler and his wife Sura (Yahed's daughter) who was born circa 1889. The name Sura is a version of the biblical name Sara, and Munish is a version of Menashe, who was the eldest son of the biblical Joseph. Sura and Munish did not meet in Kishinev, and here is why. One of the most infamous Jewish pogroms took place in Kishinev in 1903. You can read about it in Wikipedia, either in English or in Russian. Yahed's family, or perhaps part of the family, moved to the city of Berdichev in Ukraine after the pogrom when Sura was 15. That is where she met Munish and they got married circa 1908. Their first son Benish was born in Berdichev in 1910. The other two children – the son Shloyme (Solomon, born in 1915) and the daughter Charna (born in 1916) – were born in Kishinev. In other words, the family returned to Kishinev between 1910 and 1915.

We do not know much about Munish's family, but we know that his father's name was Benzion and Munish was born in the Ukrainian village of Pikov. For some reason, Munish in his youth had a quarrel with his father and decided to move to Berdichev. Munish was a blue-collar worker or a craftsman and an active member of the Jewish Labor Bund – a radical Jewish socialist party. EV's father told him that when a Jewish pogrom was planned in Berdichev, the party sent Munish to Switzerland to bring weapons for the Jewish self-defense group. As a result, a pogrom in Berdichev did not happen. This story is partly supported by independent information that American Jews indeed raised

money for buying weapons that were illegally transferred to Russian Jews for self-defense.

After their return to Kishinev, Munish owned a pretty successful shop for sewing men's pants. When Germany invaded the USSR, Munish, Sura and others were fleeing the advancing German army on foot. The Kishinev railroad station was bombed out and it was on fire. People had to walk 77 kilometers for several days to the city of Tiraspol, where they could take an eastbound freight train. Munish lagged behind the rest and nobody saw him again. He probably died either during the bombing or in the Holocaust. Sura was evacuated, and for some time she lived in the city of Kamen, Altay region, with her son Benish and his family. Benish's older daughter Larisa, which will be mentioned below, remembers Sura. In order to survive, they bought a cow, and even though Sura was a city woman, she learned how to milk a cow, which saved them from starvation. But later Sura decided to visit her sister in Fergana, she took a train, caught an infectious disease, died in Fergana in Uzbekistan and was buried there.

3, 4, 14 – Lucy (wife of Shloyme, middle child of Sura and Munish), Shloyme and their one-year-old daughter Mila. The war began in 1941. Shloyme, at the age of 26, was drafted into the Red Army and sent to serve in Georgia. In 1942, with the assistance of Georgian nationalists, German troops attacked the post where Shloyme served. The young, inexperienced soldiers retreated, there were many killed soldiers. Shloyme was sentenced by a military [tribunal](#) to 6 years in the camps and sent to the Gulag. The winter in 1942 was very severe. (In 1942, 352,560 people, or 25% of all prisoners, died in the Gulag from exhausting work, hunger and frost.) The circumstances of Shloyme's death are unknown.

Lucy was Shloyme's wife. At the beginning of the war, in 1941, Shloyme's sister, Charna, was evacuated from Kishinev with the factory. She was allowed to take one family member. Charna chose Lucy with

her little daughter Mila. Mila died in Uzbekistan from starvation and disease. After the war, Lucy returned to Kishinev, got married and gave birth to two boys.

5, 12 - Avrum (a variant of the name Avram, Abram, Abraham) and his wife Fanya (Frida, Freud) born in 1997. Avrum was a veteran of the First World War. During that war he became a POW, but his knowledge of Yiddish helped him become a translator in Germany from German into Russian. When he returned to Kishinev, Avrum became the owner of a shoe-making shop. In 1941, he and his family (Fanya and their children: Bina, Izya and Mara) were evacuated. The whole journey took several months, and in order not to die of hunger, everyone worked on collective farms in the North Caucasus in the summer and autumn of 1941. Then, when the Germans began to advance into the Caucasus, all the refugees were transported by a ship across the Caspian Sea to Uzbekistan, where this family lived in the city of Fergana. All adult members of the family worked in a military textile factory.

After the war, the whole family returned to Kishinev. Since Sura, Fanya's sister, died in Ferghana, Fanya took on the role of grandmother in relation to Sura's grandchildren. Fanya lived near Charna, Sura's daughter. Therefore, Charna's children – Misha and Mila – spent a lot of time with her. SM (Mila's husband) recalls that Fanya had dinner with them, they drank tea with jam and read Chekhov's three-volume book and old subscriptions to the Rabotnitsa magazine. Fanya read Russian well. In addition, she taught Mila to knit, and she told him (SM) about the pogrom in Kishinev in 1903. Fanya recalled that her older sister Sura was good at crocheting, and before the war, Fanya and Sura bought threads in a store on credit.

EV, who was also Sura's grandson (he is the son of Benish, Sura's eldest son), recalls the warm attitude of Fanya and Avrum towards him when he, as a student, came to Kishinev from Moscow in the early 1960s. For example, when Avrum went to his synagogue, he took the EB with him

and included him in the group of parishioners who carried the Torah around. EB did it with such enthusiasm that he earned a reprimand from his father. Everything related to religion in the USSR at that time, although it was not prohibited, was not encouraged, especially for young people. Benish, EV's father, who survived the harsh period of the Stalinist terror, was more careful about such things. We will return to this when we talk about Benish.

Avrum and Fanya had three children: Bina, Isaac (Izya) and Mara, in order of seniority. All three are included in this photo, and we will talk about them below. Avrum died in Kishinev in 1965. Fanya and Mara and their family moved to Israel in 1980. Fanya died in Israel in 1984.

13, 20 – Shifra, Moishe's wife and her son David. In addition, Moishe had a daughter, Dora, who is in the following photo, taken 38 years later. Dora left for Israel in 1990 and died in Israel. Her daughter Musya now lives in Israel, and her son Izya lives in Germany.

6, 7, 8 – Yakov's family – his children David and Charna (her married name is Benderskaya) and her husband Kopel Bendersky. Yakov's eldest son's name was Shmilek, but he is not in this photo. He lived in Leningrad.

11 – Yahed. At the time, she was the head of the family, so she sits in the center of the photo with her two daughters (the only daughters alive at the time) sitting on either side of her. We have already talked about her age and name. When names in a language with one alphabet are written in a language with a different alphabet, there is always confusion. Yahed's parents spoke Yiddish and wrote in the Hebrew alphabet. It is possible that another option for writing her name in Russian letters is Yahud. She was a very strong woman. At the age of 70 she swam in the ice-hole in winter.

She thought that the whole war would last a couple of weeks and therefore did not want to evacuate and remained in Kishinev. When her

relatives returned to Kishinev after the war, she was no longer alive. The circumstances of her death are unknown. In Kishinev, in the region of Vesterniceni, in 1941 there was a large concentration camp for Jews. Many of the camps were taken to Transnistria and perished during the many days of march from starvation, disease, or were killed by Romanian soldiers. But we don't know exactly what happened to Yahed. She was somewhere between 75 and 80 years old. Peace be upon her. May her memory be a blessing.

15 – Mara, the youngest daughter of Avrum and Fanya, was born in 1934. She worked as an English teacher in Beltsy in Moldavia. She married Arkady Boschoer, they have two children - Sasha and Sabina. Arkady dreamed all his life of moving to Israel and studied Hebrew in Moldavia. Such an opportunity appeared in 1980 – their family, including Fanya, Mara's mother, moved to Israel, where Mara continued to teach English in high school. Mara and Arkady died in Israel. Their children and grandchildren live there now.

18 – Bina, the eldest daughter of Avrum and Fanya. Before WWII, she met a young engineer, whose name was Isidor. Isidor found Bina in Fergana, where Bina was working along with the rest of her family during the evacuation. They got married in Fergana, and when they returned to Kishinev, they had two children - Ilya and Kostya. They moved to Israel, where Isidore and Bina died. Their children and grandchildren live in Israel.

19 – Charna Feldman (Veksler), born in 1916 (daughter of Sura and Munish, husband Isaak Feldman). During the war of 1940 - 1945, she lost her mother (Sura died in Uzbekistan), her father (died in Kishinev), her brother Shloyme (died in a Gulag camp in the USSR). Part the war, she lived with her mother Sura and her brother Benish in the city of Kamen in the Altai Territory. Kamen is located on the Ob, between Barnaul and Novosibirsk. In 1943, Charna and her mother went to Sura's sister Fanya in Uzbekistan. After the war, Charna returned to Kishinev

and in 1946 married Isaak Feldman (they met before the war). They had two children: Misha (born in 1948, wife Ella) and Mila (born in 1954, husband Srul Makagon). Charna came to America to her daughter Mila in 1990. With lots of love she raised her grandchildren, both in Kishinev and America, Syoma and Mariana (Mila's children) and Inna and Sasha (Misha's children). Charna died in New York in 2011.

21 – Isaak (Izya) Trostyanyansky, a cultured and gentle person. In January of 2022, he turned 95 years old, now he lives in America in the state of New Jersey. He told us a lot about the people in the photo. During the war, he began working at the age of 15 with his father Avrum. They worked at a military textile factory in Ferghana, and in addition, Avrum and his family sewed slippers and sold them at the market to feed a large family.

After returning to Kishinev, Izya graduated from a technical school, and then in 1954 from an institute with a degree in economics and finance. In his youth, Izya liked sports and participated in a Moscow parade of athletes. For many years, Izya, who is equally fluent in Moldavian and Russian, was engaged in journalistic work and worked at a Kishinev publishing house. In 2000, this publishing house published a collection of documents in the form of a book titled “The Kishinev pogrom of 1903”. Izya was the coordinator of that project.

His wife Musya (Maria, Mema) was born in 1930. In 1955, she graduated from the Institute of Light Industry in Kyiv and was assigned to work in Kishinev, where she and Izya met. They lived together for 65 years. They had a son, Misha (Misha's wife – Clara). The whole family moved to America, to the state of New Jersey. Musya died in 2020.

Who is not in the photo

The first photo does not show the two youngest sons of Yahed. Here are a few words about them and other family members.

Iosif, born in 1902. He was devoted to revolutionary and communist ideals. As a very young man, he immigrated to the USSR. Iosif studied at the history department of the Institute of Red Professorship. Here is his photo:



In 1933, he was sent to party work in the Caucasus at his request. His career moved quickly, and in 1935 he became the second secretary of the Derbent district committee of the Communist party, but in October of that year he was expelled from the party and arrested. Accusation: "Trotskyist". Sent to the Gulag in the Magadan region, where he was once again convicted, but this time for participation in a "counter-revolutionary insurgent organization." Sentence of March 1, 1938 – execution by firing squad. Shot on March 10, 1938. Rehabilitated in 1960.

After Iosif was arrested in Derbent, he was allowed one visit with his wife. During that meeting, he told her: "I'm totally innocent." We know about that from the words of Iosif's daughter Ida, who was born in 1930 and now (in March 2022) lives in the USA in the state of Arizona.

We will once again return to the tragic fate of Iosif when we talk about his nephew Benish (the son of Sura and Monish), because their destinies were intertwined. The next photo, taken in 1978, features both Ida and Benish.

David was Yahed's youngest son. He served in the Soviet army during WWII. He was wounded and demobilized, after which he lived in the

Caucasus until the liberation of Kishinev. When he returned to Kishinev, he brought the Torah with him to his synagogue. His wife's name was Clara, and they had two children: daughter Sarah (lives in Israel) and son Izya (lived in Canada and died there 2 years ago).

Shimon was the 5-th oldest child of Yahed. He was born in 1893, and we have his birth certificate. We know that he lived in Leningrad, served in the Soviet army during WWII. He had two daughters, Tonya and Dora, who met two brothers, Jews from Poland, during the evacuation in WWII. The two sisters married the two brothers. Both families moved to Israel soon after the war.

Benish, the eldest son of Sura and Munish, both of whom we saw in the first photo, was born in 1910 in Berdichev, Ukraine. His family returned to Kishinev sometime between 1910 and 1915. Like many other members of the family, Benish held extreme left-wing opinions in politics, which led to his clashes with the Romanian police, and if you call a spade a spade, to his beatings. Therefore, his comrades advised him to move to the USSR, which he did in 1925.

When he arrived in the USSR, his uncle Iosif, who himself was only 23 years old then, took him under his wing. The young uncle set his nephew on the path of education, and the nephew excelled along the way. By 1936, he had already graduated from college in Moscow and received a doctoral degree in history, probably becoming the first member in his family with an advanced degree. His thesis was on the peasant uprisings in Alsace in the 15th century.

The further life of this historian was difficult. Ruthless “purges” were going on in the USSR, and his life hung in the balance due to the fact that he was a Jew who had recently arrived from a bourgeois country (Romania), and was also engaged in the humanities. His supervisor advised him not to live in Moscow, which may have saved him. Or perhaps the fact that he never joined the Communist Party helped him. Paradoxically, party members were subjected to more persecution than

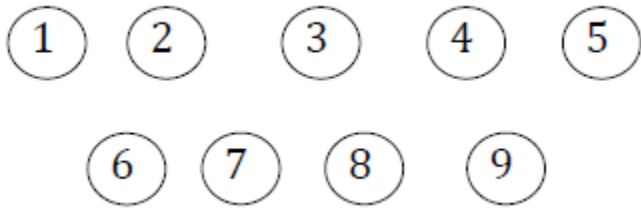
non-members were. He taught at several pedagogical institutes, but most of all in Stavropol in the Caucasus, where he was head of the department of medieval history.

He was married twice. From his first marriage with Sima (Shime, Serafima) Fridland, he had two children: Larisa and Eugene (EV). Both Larisa and Eugene live in California, USA, now. We have already mentioned Larisa. She remembers how she and her mother found Sura during the evacuation and brought her to the city of Kamen, Altay region. There were no children from the second marriage. He died in 1999 in New York.

The following photo was taken in 1978 at the wedding of Mila and SM:



It shows:



- 1 – Ida, Iosif's daughter;
- 2 – Izya, Fanya and Avrum Trostyanetsky's son;
- 3 – Dora, Moishe's younger daughter;
- 4 – Yasha Bozinovsky, Aaron's son and Yahed's grandson;
- 5 – Mara Boshoe, Fanya and Avrum Trostyanetsky's younger daughter;
- 6 – Bina, Fanya and Avrum Trostyanetsky's eldest daughter;
- 7 – Charna Feldman, Sura and Munish Veksler's daughter;
- 8 – Fanya Trostyanetskaya, Yahed's daughter;
- 9 – Benish Veksler, Charna's older brother.

Conclusion

In addition to those people whom I, Srul Makagon, have already thanked above, I want to thank especially my wife Malvina (Mila) for patiently telling me the stories of her family members, repeating them many times. The people in these photographs had a hard life, but managed to survive despite all the hardships of world wars, revolutions and the difficult life during communist rule in the former USSR. We must remember their life stories and pass them on to our children and grandchildren.

Srul Makagon
New York, 2022



The following picture:

Eugene Veklerov
and Louise Wexler



shows me, Eugene Veklerov, and my older granddaughter, who was born and lives in France. I am Benish Veksler's son, who himself was Yahed's grandson. Therefore, I am Yahed's great-grandson, and $\frac{1}{8}$ of my DNA came from her. My older granddaughter's name is Louise Wexler; the younger one's name is Pauline Wexler. Both are Yahed's great-great-great-granddaughters. Each got $\frac{1}{32}$ of her DNA from Yahed. Even though $\frac{1}{32}$ is a small part of the DNA, this part is important too. Without it, they would not be the people they are.

Their father and my son, Mark Wexler, searched genealogical databases and found quite a few interesting facts about our family. I really appreciate his enthusiasm and interest in this subject. I hope that he will pass the baton on to the next generation.

Why do the members of my branch of the family have different last names? That is a long and fascinating story. If you would like to hear it, please let me know and I will add it to the next version of this essay.

It is a pleasure to express my appreciation to Sharon Deutch for her editing of the English version of this story.

Addendum

The previous part of this story was completed in April of 2022. Since then, the authors of this story have received new information, including pictures, which we are adding to the story. We got this information from Yahed's grandchildren:

1. **Isaac (Izya)** – son of Frida, who was Yahed's 5th oldest child;
2. **Ida** – Iosif's daughter. Iosif was Yahed's 8th oldest child;
3. **Sara** – David's daughter. David was Yahed's youngest child.

As far as we know, these three people are Yahed's only remaining grandchildren.

Sara told us about Shimon's daughters – Tonya and Dora – with whom she stayed in touch in Israel. Tonya and Dora met two brothers, Jews from Poland, during the evacuation in WWII. The two sisters married the two brothers, and both families moved to Poland after the war. Tonya taught the Russian language in a Polish school. After a Jewish pogrom in Poland in 1948, both families left Poland for Israel. The two young and educated women and their husbands participated in the laying foundation of Israel, drained the marshes and built cities. They had to do hard work, such as washing dishes in restaurants, plucking chickens,

cutting them into pieces and selling them in the market. Eventually, thanks to her successful work, Tonya gained a high administrative position in local government. Tony had a son, Yakov, and Dora had two sons, Berele and Ephraim. Berele died in a car accident. Yakov and Ephraim are alive.

In the 1960s, Tonya came to Leningrad to visit her father, who was then married to his second wife, Zhenya, who had a daughter, Sonya. Shimon wanted to come to visit them in Israel and see his children and grandchildren, but it did not work out.

Sarah also gave us some information about her grandmother Yahed as she heard it from her father David. Yahed worked at night on a sewing machine to feed her large family. According to David, Yahed was an intelligent, strict, but fair woman. At the same time, she was proud, did not want to ask for anything from anyone, nor to take anything. For example, on Shabbats, she would put pots of water in the oven in case the neighbor came in, so the neighbor wouldn't think they didn't have food. Naturally, the abject poverty led Yahed's children to believe in communist ideas and promises and to glorify the USSR.

Although neither Sarah nor her cousin Izya remember their aunt Malka, Yahed's 7th oldest child, who died young from a heart problem, they do remember the monument on her grave. This monument depicts a tree with chopped branches, symbolizing the fact that Malka died without issue. Peace be upon her. May her memory be a blessing.

Ida told us about her father Iosif, who was a victim of Stalin's purges (see his photo and a brief description of life above). After immigrating to the USSR, he held party positions in the cities of Shlisselburg and Novgorod. After that, he was sent to study at the history department of the Institute of Red Professorship in Leningrad, where he studied from 1931 to 1933. In 1933, he expressed a desire to help agriculture and was sent to work in the Caucasus. He worked as the second secretary of the Derbent district committee of the communist party. The tragic end of his

short but bright life has already been described above. In 1935 he was expelled from the party as a "Trotskyist" and arrested. He was sent to the Gulag in the Magadan region, where he was once again convicted, but this time for participating in a "counter-revolutionary insurgent organization." He was executed in 1938 and rehabilitated in 1960.

It is easy to find a book called "Repressions of the 30s in Dagestan" on the Internet. The book mentions Iosif Bozinovsky many times. When his daughter Ida had a son, she named him Iosif for obvious reasons. Sadly, Iosif Jr. has passed away, but Ida's other child – daughter Clara – is alive, well, and currently lives with her mom in the U.S. state of Arizona. Srul, one of the authors of this story, along with his wife Mila, visited them a few years ago. Eugene, the second author, spoke to Ida and Clara on the phone. Clara is a second cousin to both Mila and Eugene.

Since Ida had lived in Leningrad for many years, she knew the family of Yakov, Yahed's eldest child, well. According to Izya Trostyanetsky, Yakov was called Yanke in the family. He had three children:

1. David, who after the war lived with his family in the city of Gorlovka, Donetsk region. It is where battles between Ukraine and Russia are going on now. In the very first photo we started this story with, he stands in the top row. David's wife's name was Asya and their daughter's name was Valeria.
2. Charna Benderkaya (married name). She and her husband, Kopel Bendersky, stand next to David in the same photo. Kopel was killed during the war and Charna dies without issue.
3. Shmilek, lived in Leningrad. His wife's name was Lena and their two daughters were Musya and Nina.

Finally, here are five photos of the people we are talking about in this Addendum:



Left to right: Klara, Yakov (Tonya's son), Sonya and Iosif (Ida's son).
1957



Shmilek and Ida. 1947



Standing L-R: David from Gorlovka and his daughter Valeria.
Sitting L-R: Charna Benderskaya and Asya.
1960's



Standing L-R: Ida, Zhenya, Natalia (Ida's mother)
Sitting L-R: Grisha (Ida's husband), Sonya, Shimon, Tonya
1960's



Upper row L-R: Shmilek, Charna Benderskaya, David from Gorlovka
Middle row L-R: Lena (Shmilek's wife), Valeria, Asya
Lower row L-R: Musya and Nina (Shmilek and Lena's daughters)
1957